

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8938

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: ARBATOV COMMENTS ON PARTY PLENUM AND PREOCCUPATIONS

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED BY DCM AND ME AT SOCIAL
FUNCTION AT SPASO HOUSE MAY 16, ARBATOV SAID NO DATE HAD
YET BEEN SET FOR THE NEXT PLENUM. HE WAS RATHER CONFIDENT
ABOUT THIS STATEMENT BECAUSE HE HAD BECOME INVOLVED IN THE
PLANNING FOR RECENT PLENUMS AND THEREFORE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF THE NEXT CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM.
IN ANY CASE, NO PLENUM HAS BEEN SCHEDULED PRIOR TO THE SUPREME
SOVIET ELECTIONS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 16.

2. WHEN ASKED ABOUT CURRENT PREOCCUPATIONS OF THE PARTY, HE
SAID ON THE INTERNAL SIDE IT WAS THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC
PLAN AND THE LONGER RANGE ECONOMIC PLAN EXTENDING TO 1990.
ON THE EXTERNAL SIDE, HE SAID THE PARTY WAS ENGAGED IN DEVELOPING
IDEAS AND ACTIONS DESIGNED TO MAKE THE PROCESS OF DETENTE
IRREVERSIBLE. THERE WAS, HE ADDED, SOME UNEASINESS WITHIN THE
PARTY FLOWING FROM LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN THE WEST AND THE
INTERNAL SITUATION IN THE US. THE LEADERSHIP HERE RECOGNIZED
THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD INTERJECT SOME UNCERTAINTIES
AND COMPLEXITIES INTO THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. NEVERTHELESS,
THE OVERRIDING VIEW OF THE PARTY IS THAT DETENTE MUST BE
CONTINUED AND STRENGTHENED. WITH RESPECT TO THE US-SO IET
RELATIONSHIP, ARBATO UNDERLINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT
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AT THIS TIME TO NUTURE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST FEW YEARS.

DESPITE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS NOT BE LOST. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE EVERYTHING WHICH MIGHT BE DESIRABLE; MORE MODEST STEPS SHOULD CONTINUE, HOWEVER AND THEN IN SIX MONTHS OR A YEAR LARGER ACTIONS MIGHT BECOME POSSIBLE.

3. ARBATOV, INCIDENTALLY, HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO RUN FOR A SEAT IN THE SUPREME SOVIET BY A CONSTITUENCY IN AZERBAIDZHAN. SOMEHOW WE GET THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS ELECTION IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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